

October 30, 2012

KHRC Advisory on DHEA (dehydroepiandrosterone)

Horsemen are advised to exercise extreme caution when administering products containing DHEA (dehydroepiandrosterone) to racing horses or horses in training as this substance causes a significant increase in testosterone levels in horses of all genders. Testosterone concentrations after administration of DHEA-containing products can exceed published regulatory thresholds and thus result in a violation of KAR 810:018 Sec 9 (Anabolic steroids).

These products are typically marketed as over-the-counter alternatives to anabolic steroids, with label claims of increased muscle mass and improved appetite. Horsemen are urged to review the contents of supplements, tonics, and other nutraceuticals prior to purchase, as well as those currently in use in their barns.